



**Communications Board**  
**Fire and Emergency Medical Services**  
Monroe County, New York

**Maggie Brooks**  
*County Executive*

**David Timmons**  
*Vice-Chairman*

**MINUTES OF MEETING: June 17, 2004**

<b>VOTING MEMBERS:</b>	Dick Barrett, Steve Bowman, Dave Coon (for Patty Bietry), Jack DeLisio, Bill Gillette, John Merklinger, Brian Peartree, Dave Timmons, Larry Vaughan and Tim Warth
<b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS:</b>	Mike Catalano (for Tom Coyle), Ed Mager, Dave Pierce, Rich Verdouw and Hank Wehner
<b>OTHERS ATTENDING:</b>	Christine Fustanio (for Larry Mancine), Gary Perkins and Larry Pierce
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Dan Labowitz, Mike Lissow, Steve McClary, Diana Pfersick and Ed Riley
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Tom Coyle, Scott Miller and Richard Zwaga

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Dave Timmons at 5:00 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was present.

Vice-Chairman Dave Timmons received a letter of intent from Larry Vaughan expressing his interest for the position of Chairman of the Fire/EMS Communications Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Bill Gillette and seconded. **Carried**. Larry Vaughan then chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Commissioner Bill Gillette requested that the County Legislature appoint a representative as a liaison to the Fire/EMS Communications Board. Some discussion ensued, and a motion was made to add to our by-laws a majority and minority position as County liaisons, seconded by Dick Barrett. **Carried**.

A motion was made by Chairman Larry Vaughan to accept the resignation of Vice-Chairman Dave Timmons, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gillette. **Carried**. Dave Timmons then motioned that Dick Barrett be appointed as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Steve Bowman. **Carried**.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bill Gillette to approve the minutes from the May meeting, seconded by Steve Bowman. **Carried**.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairman Larry Vaughan was forwarded a letter from Dave Timmons in regards to the Monroe County Fire District Officers Association requesting that Richard Zwaga replace Tim Smith as a voting member of the Fire/EMS Communications Board. Steve Bowman asked that this letter be forwarded to the County Legislature for addition to their referral.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Reframing Committee** – Vice-Chairman Dick Barrett reported the following: The 6 new narrowband mobile/portable are now all approved for use by all County agencies. The committee would like a letter sent out to agencies advising the channels can now be used and are assigned 1 channel for each battalion (OPS 1-5) and 1 inter-battalion channel (OPS-6). The new channels are 25-watt maximum for mobile and portable use, and the County holds the licenses. Agencies have asked about using these channels on their base stations or adding a mobile unit to their station radio center. If this is done, it is requested that their ERF be limited to 20 watts and the antenna does not exceed 20' in height to be under the County licenses. Agencies wanting more power for their base stations would not be able to use the County licenses and therefore would have to apply to the FCC for their own license on these channels. A motion was made and seconded that the County will send out a letter advising the agencies that the 6 narrowband frequencies are now available for use. They will be referred to as Ops 1-5 for each battalion and an inter-battalion channel Ops 6.

**Carried**. The committee has reviewed the current channel numbering used by all agencies and would like the County Coordinator's Office to confirm all the frequencies now being used in the County in order to look at a possible channel numbering system that would be consistent in each battalion. A draft was done in 2001 but has not been updated since. A motion was made and seconded that Dick Barrett will contact Ed Riley to obtain a list of frequencies being used by the County agencies to date. **Carried**. Finally, the narrowband County changeover implementation plan has begun to take shape. The plan will list time periods to complete tasks leading up to the actual changeover. The calendar dates will not be put on the plan until board approval of the plan.

**Digital Paging Committee** – Commissioner Bill Gillette suggested the Paging Agreement should be updated. The agreement was originally drafted several years ago (1994 or 1995). He says there is much “misinformation” out and about the County. Rich Verdouw then reported there should be a response from the FCC by the end of the month regarding an answer on the inbound side of the 2-way paging system frequency. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Jim Weichman has a meeting with County I/S to get the IP address established for the terminals that would be the groundwork for gaining Internet access. Many components are either on order or in process through the County Purchasing Department. They are working with a vendor in Chicago regarding transmitters and a company called TGA on system design on terminals. Much discussion ensued regarding one-way vs. two-way digital paging, and it was agreed that two-way paging is the choice of all those surveyed. Steve Bowman also plans on sending out an update on where we stand on this issue.

**Communications Rules & Regulations Committee** – No report.

**BATTALION REPORTS**

**Battalion 1-** Tim Warth reported that due to the recent contract, Motorola pricing is lower than last year. HT 1000 is scheduled to be discontinued as of September 30<sup>th</sup>. The HT715 will be its replacement.

**Battalion 2** – Gary Perkins reported on narrowbanding, updating the Board on its future effect on the County as a whole. A letter will be forthcoming from the County Coordinator's Office.

**Battalion 3** – No report.

**Battalion 4** – No report.

**Battalion 5** – Dave Coon (for Patty Bietry) reported a letter will be coming from the County Coordinator's Office regarding Water Rescue tones. After some discussion on MDT issues, John Merklinger will work with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion to resolve problems they are encountering.

**911 DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – John Merklinger gave an overview and explanation of the recent 911 Telephone problem. He covered how they used the disaster recovery plan to manage the event with the Crisis Committee. So far 911 has made several upgrades/repairs for about \$73,000 to correct the telephone problems. The mapping program is finally due to arrive on July 26, 2004. John noted that the building renovation is now complete until the fall.

**ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOARD**

After some discussion, it was decided that the Board will not meet during the months of July and August. If there is a need to meet, all members will be notified by phone. The meeting was then adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

**The next meeting of the Fire/EMS Communications Board is scheduled for Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004, 5:00 pm, at the Public Safety Training Facility in the STEP Conference Room.**

Christine Fustanio (for Larry Mancine), Fire/EMS Communications Board